

DATE:- January 2020

OUR NEWSLETTER



I hope you all had a restful break. I'm sure it feels like it was a while ago now! Here at nursery we have been enjoying all what 2020 has to offer! The variety of weather has led to conversations about being cold and layering up to keep warm. The children have loved seeing the frost and watching how it melts during the day. All the rain allowed for some pretty epic water play in the garden (and some very wet children...and Beckie).

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is our statutory curriculum and we deliver it through our Montessori philosophy here. This month, we are sending you the link below, so you can see how the EYFS works. Talk to any of us if you'd like more information.

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf

Staff News

Some changes at the end of last year to make you aware of. Geri has taken on the new role of Deputy Manager. Geri will still be mainly based in preschool but occasionally working in toddlers. Tori has taken on the role of Quality Co-ordinator, Tori's first challenge will be introducing 'Dough Disco' to preschool, a fun activity which combines the use of play dough with a series of hand and finger exercises designed to improve fine motor control. There will be 'Dough Disco' bags in preschool and toddlers for you to take away if you fancy having a disco at home 😊 There are also a selection of bags made in the corridor for your children to take home if you choose; Helen has made a 'Baking Bag' and Sue has gathered some of her favourite cleaning equipment, so please help yourself to the bags and return to nursery when you have enjoyed using them. Beckie has also taken on the role of SENCO, her training for this starts in the spring term.

Rachel from Fulford is coming over regularly to support Beckie with this.

Babies

Since coming back to nursery after Christmas we have been focusing on winter weather. The babies have been very interested in winter clothes and getting dressed to go outside. We are trying to go on lots more walks around Strensall so that we can wear our hats and scarves! Lots of our babies are starting to say different words now, especially each other's names and babbling during messy play. Our babies are becoming more independent due to our new routine. They all enjoy washing their hands before mealtimes and tidying their plates away when they have finished. We have recently started circle time with the babies, they are doing a great job of sitting with their friends to say good morning and we are enjoying spending time doing group activities.



Some ideas for home learning for the babies:

The babies have enjoyed looking at clothes. They have become very good at helping when it's time to get dressed. I wonder if they can match pairs of socks and gloves together at home?

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Toddlers

Welcome back after our Christmas break! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and that you are having a great start to the New Year. In toddlers, we have been enjoying the colder weather and the Toddlers have especially been enjoying seeing the frost outside and making marks in it with their footprints. Some of our other sparks this month have been vehicles, including buses, trains and tractors. We have enjoyed several visits in and around our local community and have even been in the car to B&Q to choose some plants for the garden. We have also been enjoying our French lessons on Thursdays and have had a music lesson where we learnt to play the kazoo!

This month in Toddlers, we are intending to have a big focus on the children's independence. We hope that this will have an impact on both the children's independence at home and nursery, especially the toddlers who will soon be moving to preschool. The children are doing very well with choosing their picture to put on their pegs in the morning. If you are not yet doing so, please can you help your child to find their picture when they arrive in the morning and choose where they would like to have their peg for the day. We are also continuing to encourage the children to pour their own drinks at mealtimes and serve their own snacks and meals. The children are doing so well and will often say "I do it!"



Some ideas for home learning for Toddlers

At home, you could encourage your child's independence through getting them to try to put their own shoes on, finding their own coats encouraging them to help make meals. At

nursery, the Toddlers love Helen's delicious cakes. You could try making one at home...we would love to see pictures of you all baking!

*125g/4oz butter or margarine,
softened 125g/4oz caster sugar
2 medium free-range eggs
125g/4oz self-raising flour*

- 1. Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.*
- 2. Line two 18cm/7in cake tins with baking parchment.*
- 3. Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.*
- 4. Line two 18cm/7in cake tins with baking parchment.*
- 5. Cream the butter and the sugar together until pale. Use an electric hand mixer if you have one.*
- 6. Beat in the eggs.*
- 7. Sift over the flour and fold in using a large metal spoon.*

The mixture should be of a dropping consistency; if it is not, add a little milk. Divide the mixture between the cake tins and gently spread out with a spatula. Bake for 20-25 minutes until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Allow to stand for 5 minutes before turning on to a wire rack to cool. Sandwich the cakes together with jam, lemon curd or whipped cream and berries or just enjoy on its own.

Pre School

After a very busy and exciting end of 2019 pre school have started 2020 with a positive and eager attitude. We have started January by reading the Very Hungry Caterpillar and thinking about healthy eating with the unusual fruit Louise brought back from Madeira. To end our topic we made our own delicious fruit pizza. We have also learnt about looking after our environment by helping with the cleaning and tidying and we are now looking forward to the arrival of our new sink and blinds.



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Currently we are learning about Chinese New Year and we have played with noodle messy play, tried writing Chinese symbols in sand and created printed blossom trees.

Some ideas for home learning for Pre School

This week pre school went on a 'spot the number' hunt around Strensall and we managed to find lots of different numbers everywhere. If you are out and about challenge your child to spot as many numbers as they can e.g. on a walk, at the supermarket or even in your house. Extend your child by asking them to identify the number they have spotted.

Coming up in 2020!

Grandparents coffee morning. Jan 30th
French on Thursdays 10:30am
MEG-music students from York university will be back again

2020 Bank Holiday Dates

Frid 10 April – Good Friday
Mon 13 April – Easter Monday
Frid 8 May - Early May Bank Holiday (VE day)
Mon 25 May - Spring Bank Holiday
Mon 31 August - Summer Bank Holiday
Frid 25 December - Christmas Day
Mon 28 December - Boxing Day (substitute day)

Facebook and Twitter

If you'd like to follow us on twitter and Facebook, we keep you up to date with lots of activities here and any other interests too. We are @yorksmontessori on Twitter and Facebook

Change of Details

Do remember to let us know if you move house, change jobs or phone numbers. We are in the process of updating all our children's details in the files so please expect a form to fill in, so we have the most up to date information on you and your children. Thank you.

Illness

Please can you let staff know if you have given your child Calpol or any other medication before they come to nursery.

We ask that you **PLEASE** respect our policy to reduce illness spreading and keep children out of the nursery for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. This is to help prevent everyone else from catching it, including staff who offer the continual care valued by your child. If **antibiotics** are prescribed you are asked to keep you child away from nursery for the first 48 hours following initial medication.

Invoices and Payments:

Could you please ensure that all new Government Tax Free Childcare Payments, Vouchers and Bank Payments are made by the 1ST OF THE MONTH, in line with our Terms and Conditions, thank you.

If you are changing the way you pay, e.g. with the Tax Free Childcare payments, please let our Accounts Team know as soon as possible, or by the 15th of the month on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk so we can locate your new payments quickly and easily. Thank you for your help.

Notice re payments after the 1st: Some payments have become increasingly irregular, especially as new payment methods have been introduced, such as Tax Free Childcare, Bank Payments and present Voucher Payments. Please check your account and payments, as you may need to specify the payment date for the 1st of a month. Thank you. A 'late payment charge' of £75.00 will be made where fees continue to be late. Our thanks again for your help.
headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

E mails

You can contact me at the nursery on strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk and Allison at Head Office on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

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